

LEAGUE TABLES AS AT APR 7, 1951

Goals											Goals										
P W L D F A P											P W L D F A P										
First Division											First Division Reserves										
Box Hill	1	1	0	0	5	1	2				Balwyn United	1	0	1	0	1	3	0			
Sunshine United	1	1	0	0	2	0	2				Heidelberg	1	0	1	0	1	4	0			
Prahran	1	1	0	0	4	3	2				Polonia v. Geelong United.	— Result not telephoned.									
Footscray City	1	1	0	0	2	1	2				First Division Reserves										
Brighton	1	0	0	1	1	1	1				Box Hill	1	1	0	0	5	1	2			
Yallourn	1	0	0	1	1	1	1				Sandringham City	1	1	0	0	2	0	2			
Sandringham City	1	0	1	0	1	2	0				Sunshine United	1	1	0	0	4	2	2			
South Yarra	1	0	1	0	3	4	0				Prahran	1	0	0	1	4	4	1			
Park Rangers	1	0	1	0	0	2	0				South Yarra	1	0	0	1	4	4	1			
Sunshine City	1	0	1	0	1	5	0				Park Rangers	1	0	1	0	2	4	0			
Second Division											Footscray City	1	0	1	0	0	2	0			
George Cross	1	1	0	0	7	0	2				Sunshine City	1	0	1	0	1	5	0			
Moreland	1	1	0	0	4	1	2				Yallourn v. Brighton.	— Result not telephoned.									
Hakoah J.R.C.	1	1	0	0	3	0	2				Second Division Reserves										
J.U.S.T.	1	1	0	0	4	2	2				Juventus	1	1	0	0	4	0				
Fifers	1	0	0	1	1	1	1				J.U.S.T.	1	1	0	0	3	1				
Juventus	1	0	0	1	1	1	1				Moreland	1	1	0	0	3	1				
South Melbourne	1	0	1	0	2	4	0				Hakoah J.R.C.	1	1	0	0	5	2	2			
F.N.D.	1	0	1	0	0	3	0				George Cross	1	1	0	0	3	1	2			
University	1	0	1	0	1	4	0				F.N.D.	1	0	1	0	2	5	0			
Preston	1	0	1	0	0	7	0				South Melbourne	1	0	1	0	1	3	0			
Third Division											University	1	0	1	0	1	3	0			
Moorabbin City	1	1	0	0	3	1	2				Preston	1	0	1	0	1	3	0			
Inter. Harvesters	1	1	0	0	2	0	2				Fifers	1	0	1	0	0	4	0			
White Eagles	1	1	0	0	2	0	2				Third Division Reserves										
Williamstown	1	0	1	0	0	2	0				Box Hill	1	1	0	0	11	1	2			
Coburg	1	0	1	0	0	2	0				Polonia	1	1	0	0	5	3	2			
Olympic	1	0	1	0	1	3	0				Coburg	1	0	1	0	3	5	0			
Royal Caledonians v. Woodlands.—Result not telephoned.											Moorabbin City	1	0	1	0	1	11	0			
Fourth Division											R.A.F. v. Williamstown. — Result not telephoned.										
Slavia	1	1	0	0	4	1	2				Matches off.—Olympic v. Brighton; R. Caledonians v. Preston.										
Ulsterville	1	1	0	0	3	1	2														
Maccabi	1	1	0	0	2	0	2														
Frankston	1	0	1	0	0	2	0														



Letters To The Editor


Readers are invited to send along queries, suggestions, etc., to the Editor. All will be given appropriate consideration.

Sir,—The writer returned to Melbourne to reside after an absence of many years abroad and the first thing he did was to find out where the game he learned to play as a boy could be seen. This was not so easy as there is not much publicity given to Soccer here.


Eventually he found his way to Olympic Park to enjoy the Soccer game there. It was late in the season and he was only able to see two games—Box Hill v. Sunshine United and the Dockerty Cup final—Moreland v. Box Hill. It is to record his appreciation and admiration that he pens these few lines. The standard of football was good, hard, and clean. The players played the 90 minutes as only those in the best of fettle could, and the games were handled in masterly manner by the referees and linesmen. The crowds struck me as sporting in their attitude. There generally was a happy attitude towards the games. If there was one thing which I may be permitted to criticise it was the generally poor standard of "throwing in," especially when this duty was undertaken hurriedly by forwards instead of waiting for the half-back.

As one who has been brought up to Soccer it was a surprise and inspiration to observe what was being done here to put the great old game before the Victorian public. I expect to get a lot of pleasure from further viewing the games played in the 1951-52 season.

Wishing the V.A.S.F.A. more success and expansion this season.—Yours, etc., "SALAPIAN."



Soccer News



The Official Organ of
VICTORIAN AMATEUR SOCCER FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION

Vol. 4, No. 2

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Price 6d.

MORELAND'S DEFENCE COVER



—"Soccer News" Photo.

Last year's Cup winners' near perfect diagonal defence set-up is clearly visible in this Cup Final shot. Moreland players are, (l. to r.) Bennett (goal), Murrell (left-back), Kennedy (centre-half), Nolan (left-half), Clarke (right-back), Lock (left-half), McDonald (centre-forward). The Box Hill player is McDonald (centre-forward). Teddy Lowe with the whistle.

Editorial

All communications re "Soccer News" must be sent to the Editor, V. J. M. Dixon, 42 Nelson Street, Sandringham, S.B.



The opening of the season brought its customary "bag" of surprises to confound the students of form. In the first division Box Hill gave the newly-promoted Sunshine City a setback to the tune of 5-1, while Sunshine United and Footscray City had but narrow victories over Park Rangers and Sandringham City respectively. Yallourn, all the way from Gippsland, forced a draw at Hurlingham Park against mighty Brighton. Rumour has it also that South Yarra gave the Como Park Internationals an awful fright at Fawkner Park. Be that as it may, many shrewd judges of Soccer claim this clash of South Yarra and Prahran as the finest club game for years. That is pretty good for the first encounter of the season.

In the second division Navy found Hakoah far too strong for them at Olympic Park, while George Cross came down heavily on Preston with a 7-0 win. Newly-promoted J.U.S.T. defeated South Melbourne in a fairly evenly contested match, and Moreland showed that it can still produce Cup Final form by defeating University. Fifers in the first run in this division took one point from Juventus.

Moorabbin, White Eagles, and International Harvester, all had wins in the third division over their respective opponents, Olympic, Coburg and Williams-town.

In the newly-created fourth division two new national clubs, Palonia and Slavia, each had a win against Geelong Celtic and Heidelberg respectively.

Other results in these lower divisions are not to hand at time of writing. Once again we cannot stress too strongly the necessity for clubs to telephone in scores immediately the games end. New clubs particularly must realise that neither the Association can play its part properly, nor the Press give the game publicity unless all take the trouble to telephone promptly results of games in detail.

The State selectors are staging tomorrow (Sunday, April 15) the first State trial at No. 2 oval at Olympic Park. Supporters who have not previously been to any of the State trials in other years, are strongly advised to come and see some of the outstanding players of Victoria in action. The quality of the football is always high, and a most enjoyable afternoon is guaranteed.

On Jubilee Day — little more than a month off — Victoria is sending a team to South Australia. It is aimed to play three trial games to help pick this team. The resulting contest in Adelaide will provide an excellent opportunity of gaining a real insight into the quality of the material on hand.

The following month the English professional side will be with us over the King's Birthday holiday week-end. Then, ladies and gentlemen, you will see football such as you have only dreamed of.

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A FEW WORDS ON FOOTBALL

(Part 1)

by

TOM FINNEY

of Preston North End and England



I started off my playing career as an inside-forward and joined my present Club (Preston North End) in 1939 as such, going there from school, and it was just by coincidence that I came to play on the wing. It happened that the regular outside-right was injured and I was standing by as first reserve, so I was asked to play there, but it was with reluctance that I did so, as I had never before played in any outside berth and I did not relish the idea of making a fool of myself before several thousand spectators. However, being keen to play, I went on with every intention of doing my utmost to make a show of some kind. Bill Scott, who was then our trainer, was responsible for me first taking to the wing. However, I went out and had a very poor first half, but came out and played a blinder in the second half and we won 3-0. I was never considered for any other position afterwards other than the right wing, so I had to thank fortune and Bill Scott for my chance in the start of my career on the wing.

I learnt most of my football on the field near home and played almost every minute I had to spare, summer and winter, with the boys from the district. I suppose the actual craft was more or less a gift, but I certainly played often enough to help to cultivate it and I was always fond of juggling and playing with a ball on my own. This I feel sure helped a lot later in my career.

When I found I liked the wing position, then I made up my mind I was going to try my hardest to make a success of it, and here I must add I received a lot of advice and help from Bill Scott, our trainer, on wing play. There are, of course, numerous jobs to learn in any position on the field of play. In wing play, there are to my mind four main jobs. These can come under the following headings:—Speed, ability to think quickly, ball control and centring.

Speed is one of the main assets on the wing and most wing men are known to be fast, but though fast when really full out the essence of speed is that quickness off the mark. This can be practised to a fine degree so as to make you that yard or two faster over the short distance which means the difference of your getting possession of the ball and being dispossessed. To practise this, one must do as sprinters do and get out of their holes as quickly as possible. When you think you have mastered this to the best of your ability, try running at a normal pace, then suddenly get away into a fast burst and then down again to a normal trot. At all times try to relax as much as possible, saving all your energy and effort for the final burst of speed. You can really get this off to a fine degree

(Continued on page 15)

COMPLETE ITINERARY of the 1951 ENGLISH TOUR

Date	Versus	At
Wed., May 16	South Coast	Wollongong
Sat., May 19	New South Wales	Sydney
Wed., May 23	Sydney Metropolis	Sydney
Sat., May 26	FIRST TEST	Sydney
Wed., May 30	Northern Districts	Cessnock
Sat., June 2	New South Wales	Newcastle
Wed., June 6	Country Centre	To be arranged
Sat., June 9	Victoria	MELBOURNE
Mon., June 11	An Australian XI	MELBOURNE
Sat., June 16	Western Australia	Perth
Mon., June 18	Western Australia	Perth
Sat., June 23	An Australian XI	Adelaide
Mon., June 25	Broken Hill	Broken Hill
Sat., June 30	SECOND TEST	Sydney
Wed., July 4	Queensland	Brisbane
Sat., July 7	THIRD TEST	Brisbane
Wed., July 11	An Australian XI	Ipswich
Sat., July 14	FOURTH TEST	Sydney
Wed., July 18	Northern Districts	Newcastle
Sat., July 21	FIFTH TEST	Newcastle
Mon., July 23	South Coast	Wollongong

As this list may be subject to slight alteration, "Soccer News" will carry full details of any changes.



On Thin Ice

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VICTORIA v. SOUTH AUSTRALIA



— "Soccer News" photo.
White (left-back), Vic., heads away safely from Cranswick (S.A.), while Starkey (right-back), Vic., waits to take the ball. In the background are Grace (S.A.) and Scott (Vic.). Victoria will be sending a team to S.A. on Jubilee Day, Wednesday, May 9.

SECRETARY'S NOTES

REFEREES' ASSOCIATION

Please note that the telephone number of Mr. E. Clarkson, president, is WU 6684 and not as printed in the official handbook.

MOORABBIN CITY SOCCER CLUB

Directions to ground: Train to Moorabbin Station. Ground, Moor Reserve, South Road. First ground past Horscroft's Factory on right-hand side. Sign is at side of ground.

PAYMENTS TO V.A.S.F.A.

Clubs are again reminded that all payments (excepting "Soccer News" and Transfer Fees) must be sent to the Treasurer of the V.A.S.F.A. (Mr. A. Kerr), 22 Wordsworth Street, Moonee Ponds, W.4.

PHONING OF RESULTS

Clubs please follow out instructions on last circular and telephone results to the "Herald" Office immediately after match. Yallourn, Royal Caledonians and Polonias soccer clubs, please note.

SOUTH AUSTRALIA v. VICTORIA

The Council of the V.A.S.F.A. has accepted an invitation to send a Victorian team to play South Australia at Norwood Oval, Adelaide, on Wednesday, May 9, 1951 (Jubilee Day).

FRANKSTON SOCCER CLUB

Mr. P. Ims has taken over the secretary's job. His address is 44 Cranbourne Road, Frankston.

BANISH THOSE BLUES

By KEITH GILMOUR, Editor "Soccer Weekly News", N.S.W.

Can we test England to the full, and can we win Tests in this year's series? Listen to Australian goalkeeper Norman Conquest's view.

"Australia sent a good team away to South Africa last year. Individually it was far from the strongest fielded by Australia. By the end of the tour I believe IT WAS AUSTRALIA'S BEST SOCCER TEAM. All South Africa admitted by the end of the tour that the Springboks were being out-played at their own brand of football. Had there been a Fifth Test, we would have won the series."

Norman Conquest should know. He has represented N.S.W., Australia, or both, against the Indians in 1938, Palestine 1939, Chinese 1941, South Africa 1947, Yugoslavia 1949 and again in South Africa last season.

PATH NOT EASY

Of course, it's no easy task to defeat England at their own game. It seems that the selectors' job will be to mould the side around the mainsprings of 1950 team. For instance, the half-back line, Lawrie, Jack and Young, will take some beating.

Many times Australia's Soccer reputation has suffered because players were not assembled until the day before the Test. This allows no time for practice together. Forget the expense of early assembly—the extra will be taken at the gate!

Should the leading players be placed under the care of one team manager for the series, the team should find the esprit de corps required to win matches.

Other matches in New South Wales should be managed by leading Association and Club officials, with the accent on those who are proved as top class tacticians. With Tom Jack, Kevin O'Neill and perhaps Harry Brophy of Queensland skilled in the third back play, I believe Australia would do well to persevere with it.

LESSONS OF THE PAST

Let's look back to 1950 in South Africa. It can teach us many, many lessons. As the Australians left for home, a leading professional team from Portugal completed a tour of Portuguese Africa with three games in the Union of South Africa.

This strong side won one and lost two of its matches in the Transvaal, indicating that the Australian team showed better results on tour.

Perhaps the most significant indication of Australia's potential Soccer strength was a match played at Benoni, before the Australian team was a great force. The Eastern Transvaal team included Jimmy Pickerell, giant goalkeeper who toured Australia; Botha, and Patton, regular Springbok internationals, and no fewer than seven South Africans who played in the English first and second divisions, and were home for a vacation. The Australian team drew 2-all with this formidable team.

No one will detract one iota from the calibre of the coming England team. They are past-masters, skilled in the technique of exacting professional football.

But Australia has the players to give England its biggest shock in any Dominion tour, so long as they are given favourable facilities.

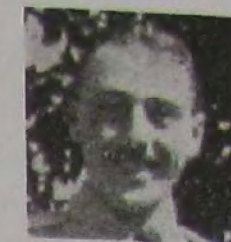
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HOME and AWAY

By ALEC BARR



BIG GAME

Every year for the last 600 years the town of Ashbourne, Derbyshire, England, play what is probably the biggest football match in the world. The game begins at dawn and finishes at dusk. The goals are two water mills five miles apart. The ball is leather filled with cork. Most of the game takes place on streams and rivers. The teams would make a good "gate" here. Players total 500.

PRESIDENTIAL PERFORMANCES

Recently our council desired an interview with a high government official. Through the influence of our hard working president, Mr. Geoffrey Cohen, they achieved their aim. A few more men of his calibre would help our game considerably.

FORWARDS, MARCH

Harry Ashworth reckons he'll have nothing to do this year. He says his team is the best ever. Remember, you forwards, and burst his average.

HOME COOKING

Fulham has an extension to their ground called Craven Mansion. It is a hostel for single players on their books. The house is conducted by a homely couple and amenities include television, billiards and table tennis. Anybody going to transfer to Fulham?

GUMMY SHARK

A well-known Welsh centre-forward has lost his top dentures. Anyone swimming down Seaford way keep their shoes on while swimming. They might get bitten.

RATHER MANY

The State selection committee has been increased to seven this year. That will mean seven men popular before the team is picked and seven outcasts afterwards.

BIG SHOT

Ken Grieves, Australian-born goalkeeper for Bury, has been touring India with a cricket team. Out shooting with a maharajah, Ken shot a leopard measuring 7 ft. 6 ins. Never knew goalies could "shoot".

TOO OLD

How many times do we hear players saying "I'm too old"? It is interesting to note Leslie Compton was 38 when last capped for England. Still hope for Bill Stewart.

POLONEY'S NICE

Last Sunday saw the Kangaroos on the hop. The best team won the day. However, the 'Roos, after having had their tails tramped on, will see it doesn't happen again. Trouble was they played like "wallabies".

INDOOR AND OUTDOOR SPORTS

A well-known hotel near Tommy Bent's statue often resembles a general meeting. Large numbers of players and officials from several clubs gathered there last Saturday week. Maybe the beer is good or was it the Brighton-Hakoah trial match that attracted. I wonder. The situation is getting SIERA'S.

SYDNEY SCORER

Frank Parsons, of N.S.W., who played inside-left for Australia last year, made a crashing start for the season by scoring 6 goals for his home team, Leichhardt, in a total score of 7-2 against Cessnock, visiting Northern side, two weeks ago. Frank was playing in the centre-forward position.

WHAT ARE YOU DOING FOR SOCCER?

By VIC ROSE



Having watched the ups and downs of Soccer in Victoria since 1918, with, I must admit, too much emphasis on the downs, I am convinced that if Soccer is to be firmly established in Victoria, it must be done between the present year and the holding of the Olympic Games in Melbourne in 1956.

Once before we had the opportunity to do this—I refer to the period from 1927 to 1930—and failed to take advantage of it. The opportunities now are considerably greater than during those years. The main features now are the large influx of new population, the greater Soccer consciousness of the people, and the diminished resistance of the Press, and the facilities offered by radio.

The question arises, how can we best advance the great game in order that Australia can take its place among the great football nations of the world? I will endeavor to provide the answers in what I consider their order of importance. At the top of the list I will place you, Mr. Spectator, who follows the fortunes of the teams during the season. Are you a two-hours-a-week supporter? If so, you are not pulling your weight. Try and become an all-the-year fan, and talk about the game to your friends. When you meet new arrivals ensure that they know where they can contact a local club. Be an active worker for your club, and get on to one of its committees. If you cannot do this you can always help on match days at least. For example, the players after a hard match would greatly appreciate the action if you, sir, with the help of other supporters, took down and stored the goal posts and nets. The sales of our journal could be doubled if one or two active people undertook the distribution of it on match days.

What about YOU, Madam? Some clubs have an energetic social committee whose influence on the game is enormous. Has your club got one? If not, what about it? Become an active worker for the committee if one is already established. Bring newcomers along. They are probably longing to find themselves in surroundings where they feel at home.

Don't forget the £.s.d. The game cannot progress without YOUR money. Give as much as you can to the collection box. Make sure to buy a copy of

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What Are You Doing for Soccer? (Continued)

the "News." Become at least an honorary member of your club. When the big matches come round, turn up, rain or shine. Bring two or three friends with you. Then the game will boom.

Next on my list I place the players, Seniors, Reserves and Juniors. I may be taken to task for not putting them first, as it is a certain thing that all the enthusiasm in the world is useless with nothing to enthuse about. My admiration goes unreservedly to them as every week-end they strive to uphold their club, often in the face of considerable sacrifice and difficulties—very often with no amenities and very little help. To the players I would say: Make sure you are fit on match days. If you cannot be available, let your secretary know at your earliest. When you are on the field, remember that your general bearing will reflect credit or otherwise to your club. Always be well turned out. It has been very noticeable the smart way in which the clubs formed from overseas players turn out each Saturday.

Third on my list I place the controlling bodies, whether of a league or club. These are the people responsible for creating a policy and administering it. There are plenty of kicks and few bouquets.

Mr. Supporter or Player, if sometimes things go wrong, do not be too critical. Remember, the officials work long hours for the game. Their only object is the same as yours — the advancement of Soccer in Victoria.

Finally, the Referees, and I hope they will not be offended by being placed last. These gentlemen are experts and fully aware of their responsibilities. Theirs is often a thankless job.

Now, Mr. Supporter, remember that if the "Ref." sometimes errs, he is only human.

Let us all pull our weight in the next few years; give of our best in whatever niche in the game we occupy, and we will then see Soccer boom in Victoria.



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BRITISH SOCCER

By L. A. W. PEARCE

Reprinted from "Soccer Weekly News" (N.S.W.)

INTERNATIONAL

On April 14, at Wembley, England and Scotland meet to decide the championship, each being undefeated. This is how they stand:—

	Pl.	W.	D.	L.	Goals	Pts.
Scotland	2	2	0	0	9.2	4
England	2	2	0	0	8.3	4
Wales	3	1	0	2	5.8	2
Ireland	3	0	0	3	3.12	0

The Cups

F.A. CUP

At Wembley on April 28 the Final will be between Newcastle United and Blackpool. The former have won the Cup three times, the last time in 1932 when they beat Arsenal 2-1. Blackpool have never won, but appeared in one final in 1948 when Manchester United beat them 4-2.

AMATEUR

The final will be played at Wembley on April 21 between Bishop Auckland and Pegasus. The former last won in 1939, and were beaten in last year's final by Willington 4-0. Pegasus are a fairly new club, made up of members of Oxford and Cambridge Universities.



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CLUB JOTTINGS

BOX HILL

Box Hill commenced the 1951 season with a home game against Sunshine City. This was our first game on our own ground this year, as it had been in use for cricket finals until March 31.

The Hillmen's team was changed considerably from the Cup Final side last year. Macdonald is on leave and Tow Davis and Jimmy Nicholson have retired.

Bob McFeeters was at outside-right and Peter Otto, a promising player from last year's Under 19 team, played at outside-left. A new player to the club, Alan Hiatt, from England, gained selection at left-half and played well in his first game after receiving a bad knock early.

Sunshine City were first to score, but soon afterwards Box Hill equalised when Neil netted from close in, and at half-time the Hillmen were leading 2-1. Hiatt having also scored for the home side.

The City forwards were playing better football than those of the home team, but were unable to penetrate the Hillmen's defence.

However, Box Hill made the most of their opportunities, 3 more goals being scored at short range by Brown and Overall.

Box Hill turned out in their new numbered shirts which apparently brought them luck.

Result:—Box Hill 5, Sunshine City 1.

Best players for Box Hill: Otto, Holborn, Nicholson and Hiatt.

The Club has several social activities arranged for the next few weeks. Players and supporters are invited to come along and support the functions arranged by the Social Committee in conjunction with the Ladies' Committee.

Card Night.—Saturday, April 14, at home of Mrs. Fox, 7 Graham Place, Box Hill.

Whist Night.—Friday, April 20, at home of Mrs. Barnett, 17 Brougham Street, Box Hill. (Ladies please bring a plate.)

Dance.—Saturday, May 5, in Town Hall (West), Box Hill.

Street Stall.—Friday, May 11, in Main Street, Box Hill (opposite Railway Station). Gifts of all types of goods, especially cakes, will be greatly appreciated. Any lady not on Ladies' Committee, and is willing to help, should get in touch with Mrs. Fox (WX 4263).

—Alex. Jarvis.

BRIGHTON

The season opened at Hurlingham Park with a visit from Yallourn. The game did not come up to expectations. Perhaps that it was the first one of the season had something to do with it. Yallourn held its own in the first half. Brighton in the second with the wind kept up a steady pressure but with dogged defence by the visitors and lack of initiative by the home forwards the game finished in a draw — one goal each. I would like to pay tribute to the fine display by Wilson in the Yallourn goals. He was the talk of Brighton and received many congratulations after the game. It must have been a day for goalkeepers, as Brighton Reserve team came back from Yallourn talking of the 'keeper's display. Nice work, "Dicko"; keep it up.

The secretary and treasurer on Saturday afternoon signed up new members round the line to the sum of £22. A very good opening was wound up in the Scout Hall in the evening with a social run by the Ladies' Committee. A good time was had by all. The next function there will be Crazy Whist on May 5. Keep the date open players and supporters.

—Alex. Mac.

FRANKSTON

Last Saturday Frankston opened its league fixtures with a match against Maccabi at Royal Park and lost by 2 goals to nil. We certainly learnt a lot about the art of ball control from them and we hope to remedy this in future. It is rumoured that our coach is going to "have a go", so it looks as though his wife will soon be having a bit more washing to do.

If any club is interested in arranging friendly matches for Sundays, would they please contact me at 44 Cranbourne Road, Frankston, in order to arrange same. We have several chaps who would appreciate a game or two on Sundays.

Thanks for the grand write up Alex. Barr. Let's hope that we live up to your expectations.

—P. Ims, Hon. Sec. Frankston Soccer Club.

PRAHRAN

Prahran fulfilled the expectations of its supporters by defeating South Yarra at Fawcner Park in its opening match. It secured the points, however, by only four goals to three. In the Reserves match, played at Como Park, the result was a draw with four goals to the credit of each team.

In the Fawcner Park game, Durnian opened the scoring for South Yarra with a neat header, but Carter soon equalised for Prahran. Thereafter Prahran pressed the attack and soon gained a lead with a goal by Wilson. Two further goals left the advantage with Prahran at half-time, despite a determined attack by South Yarra in which Hurst beat Ashworth off a cross shot from Durnian.

South Yarra rallied after the resumption. For a while play was very even and moved rapidly from end to end of the ground. Prahran seemed to tire later and were put on the defensive by several strong attacks by the home side. During one of these attacks a possible scoring shot was converted into a certainty when White (Prahran) attempting to head the ball away from the goal, planted it firmly in the net to score for the opposition. In spite of this and of Prahran's failure to utilise its right-wing for long periods, however, South Yarra was unable to secure the equaliser.

SANDRINGHAM CITY

The opening day is over, and we congratulate Footscray City who after a hard game ran out winners. The winners adapted themselves to the conditions and opportunities better. We have picked up a star player in our new centre-half, Les Day. He hails from Birmingham. We give the tip to Tom Jack to pull up his socks if he wants to retain his place in the Victorian team.

Reg Parkhouse, who made one bad error during the match, played a classical game in goals, whilst the old veteran, Gordon Wilkinson, after a quiet first half, was in everything after "lemons".

At night we drowned our sorrows at a smoke night which was the best ever, thanks to Mr. McLennan and his merry band of helpers.

Joe Walton and Gordon Wilkinson kept things moving, and Arthur Hammond brought down the house with his sketch entitled "Susy". If any club is holding a smoke night and wants artists, we suggest these three boys. The Editor of the "Soccer News" can verify, as we thought he was going to split his sides laughing.

[Quite right.—Ed.]

SOUTH YARRA

"Soccer News" went like hot cakes and sales broke all records at our first home game against Prahran. That will have a very heartening effect upon Soccer in general, and shows that this year the game will become an attraction for many more tens of thousands. The following is a description of the game between South Yarra and Prahran at Fawcner Park.

South Yarra scored first through Durnian ten minutes from the start. A few minutes later Prahran levelled the scores with a beautiful goal from Carter. Prahran was faster to the ball than the home side, and took every advantage that was offered. Some really good play from the Yarra forward line ended in Hirst putting Yarra ahead. Wilson (Prahran) was not long in equalising, and Thornington, playing brilliantly for Prahran, notched two more. Half-time: South Yarra, 2; Prahran, 4.

Throughout the second half South Yarra hammered at the goal. A long kick from Bain was misheaded by one of Prahran's backs and was put into the corner of the net. The game was played in a fine sporting spirit and some really good football was witnessed. Final: South Yarra, 3; Prahran, 4.

General News.—Mr. James Marshall has been appointed coach. Seeing he knows the game from A to Z Yarra should go well this season. We had the misfortune to lose the services of J. Smith, who broke his leg besides fracturing the ankle bone in our first practice match of the season. The members of the club wish you well, Jim, and are all waiting to see you back on the ground. Yarra has signed on some very promising lads and is looking forward to a very good season.

—W. E. Binyon.



STATE SELECTORS

A. KERR, Chairman of Selectors.

State selectors last week visited several games. Today they are visiting others. Tomorrow, Sunday, April 15, first Victorian State trial will be held at No. 2 oval, Olympic Park, in the afternoon. The following players are required to appear at the above ground.

PROBABLES.—Weight (Park Rangers), Heath (Moreland), Drummond (Brighton), Weatherall (Prahran), Jack (Brighton), Drennan (Sunshine United), Wilson (Prahran), Hardman (Moreland), Stoddart (Brighton), Wilson (Park Rangers), McFeeters (Box Hill).

POSSIBLES.—Rough (Moorabbin), Cox (Sunshine City), West (Park Rangers), Dugina (J.U.S.T.), Pechout (J.U.S.T.), Barr (Brighton), Roubel (J.U.S.T.), Hirst (South Yarra), Manson (Footscray), Smith (South Melbourne), Tolnay (J.U.S.T.).

RESERVES.—Bambro (Prahran), McCall (Sunshine City), White (Prahran).

Players, turn up at No. 2 OVAL, OLYMPIC PARK, at 2.15 p.m., SUNDAY, APRIL 15.

JUNIOR SECTION

Sunday International Games

P. H. LAIDLAW CUP

Sunday International games, run by the Junior Association last season, were a great success from a financial and propaganda point of view.

This season at least 12 countries will take part in the competition. They are England, Scotland, Ireland, Wales, Australia, Malta, Greece, Italy, Holland, Yugoslavia, Poland and Hungary. Any other country interested please get in touch with me.

A general meeting will be held in the Temperance Hall (rear of Savoy Theatre) on Sunday, April 22, at 7.30 p.m. Will the following delegates please attend and any other persons interested:—England, R. White and J. Finney. Scotland, A. Mackie and McKeoun Preston. Ireland, P. Mulcahy. Wales, Can I have two Welsh delegates. Australia, A. Drennan and K. Warburton. Will all other countries please appoint its delegates.

—J. Parker, Organiser, 22 Southernhay Street, Regent, N.19.

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Mr. W. R. Thomas, Deputy Chairman of your Victorian Soccer Council, and a Representative of this Office, will be only too pleased to supply any other information required. His telephone number is:

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Did Julius Caesar Play Football?

By J. H. HAWKER

Did Julius Caesar play football?

Frankly, I don't know. Nor does anybody else for certain. However, it is well within the bounds of possibility that, if he was a sporting young man in his younger days, he took part in a somewhat similar game played with a large inflated ball called a "follis."

Nor is that the earliest we can look for traces of the origins of our favorite game. Even the ancient Greeks had a word for it! They called it "harpaston," and it seems probable that the Romans copied their game and later took it with them on their travels.

In both these early games there were two opposing sides or teams whose object was to carry the ball, by any means, through the ranks of the opposition and across a given line at the rear.

Origins of football in Britain are shrouded in the mists of time, but it does seem probable that Roman soldiers played among themselves during their stay on the island. At any rate, it has been played in various forms for many centuries. Writing in or about the year 1175, W. Fitzstephen records the playing of football by the young men of the period, and for some obscure reason, Shrove Tuesday seems to have been THE day for football for a very long time.

At Chester, for instance, from times so remote that no date can be indicated, a football game was played on the Roodee (now Chester racecourse) each Shrove Tuesday until 1540.

All too little is known about these early games, but it is certain that the ball was started from the middle and had to be propelled or carried through goals, the size of which seems to have varied considerably. Sides were more or less equal but apparently unlimited in numbers. The game was played in the streets, a field or even, in some instances, across country. The goals were sometimes several miles apart. The ball was kicked, carried or thrown, and hacking, tripping and other forms of violence were all part of the fun. In fact, so violent and brutal did the game become at various periods that the authorities banned it for fear of breaches of the peace.

The first recorded frown of disapproval came from King Edward II when, on April 13, 1314, he issued a proclamation forbidding the "hustling over large balls" to be played within the city. Then, in 1349, Edward III cast a dirty look at the sport and promptly banned it, this time specifically mentioning "foot ball."

A further ban was imposed by Henry IV in 1401 and even Henry VIII too time off from acquiring and disposing of wives to forbid the playing of football. In good Queen Bess's golden days the penalty for playing was an indefinite term of imprisonment.

The first mark of Royal approval seems to have come from King Charles II who arranged a match between his own servants and those of the Duke of Albemarle in 1681.

[In a later article we shall trace the development of Association Football (Soccer) from the earlier forms of the game.]

NOTICE TO CLUB SECRETARIES

It is hoped this season that it will not be necessary to charge clubs for postage or freight on "Soccer News." We wish to make it clear, however, that printing costs are far higher this year than last and we have no guarantee that they may not rise again during the season. In the event of a substantial rise in costs or a fall in sales, it is possible that a charge might later have to be made for postage or freight as was done last season.

A Few Words on Football (Continued)

whereby an opponent can never really tell when you are full out and you have him guessing just as to when you are going to make your burst of speed and draw away from him. It is helpful to practise this with a ball as much as possible, as you are required to run at a great speed when partaking in a game and usually with the ball.

Ability to think quickly is, of course, a more "natural" gift and though I can perhaps suggest to young players how to try to improve on this point, it is more or less within the fellow himself and can hardly be coached into anyone. Try at all times to be alert on the field, even though you are not taking part in a move. You should always be trying to size up the play and finding any flaw in the opponent's defence so that you can exploit it. Remember the old saying, that the player without the ball is the best player. Well, it really is true, as he is the chap who is looking for that open space for you to put the ball in so that he can receive it. You must try to be a move in front of your opponent so that if he counters some of your moves you always have something in mind to vary it, and this is where your ability to think quickly comes in. If you can think that move out just that split second before he can, you are away and it may result in a goal. Remember, a split second in Soccer means yards.

Ball Control: This is essential in any position and though most people appear to think that most good ball players are gifted with it, they don't realise how the player has practised for hundreds of hours to cultivate this art. To become really good at controlling the ball takes hours of practice and young players can help themselves a lot by simple exercises in this respect. (1) Try walking with the ball and see how easily one loses control of it. This only shows that the ball is not properly under control. Remember, walking encourages correct control. (2) Walking, controlling the ball with either foot by the inside and outside alternatively. I should stress how important it is to have the advantage of being able to use both feet. After the walking lessons, try to do the same moves by jog trot and later at an increased pace until you can really control the ball when running at high speed.

(Continued next week)

NOTICE

Owing to restrictions due to Taxation regulations, it is not possible to set out "Soccer News" as a programme, except on special occasions. However, wherever a notification to players to turn up to a game appears in "Soccer News" the position of the players on the field may be quickly discovered, as they always appear in the order (1) goalkeeper; (2) right-back; (3) left-back; (4) right-half, etc.—always from right to left, so that 11 is the outside-left.



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